

The Mission Field

August Report of the Missionary Board of the Brethren Church

GENERAL FUND

Balance in treasury, August 1, 1899,	\$ 11 08
A G., Silverton, Oregon,	1 00
Mrs. J. H., Philadelphia, Pa.,	75
A sister, Mosgrove, Pa.,	50
A sister, Woburn, Md.,	25
S. P. H., Waterloo, Iowa,	1 00
Eld J. L. G., Waterloo, Iowa,	10 00
E. H., Waterloo, Iowa,	5 00
National S. S. C. E.,	10 00
Barrel money, O. W., Fairview, Ind.,	2 69
California church,	7 50
A sister, Goshen, Ind.,	1 00

CHICAGO FUND

Auburn church, Ill.,	\$ 4 65
Illiokota district,	20 00
Darwin church, Ind.,	8 00
Two friends, Salem, Ind.,	2 00
A friend, Aurelia,	5 00
Offerings, Chicago Mission,	2 50
S. S. C. E., Dunlaps, Ind., Bemenderfer and Miller pledges,	7 00

WASHINGTON FUND

Conemaugh church, Pa.,	\$ 2 50
Hagerstown church, Md.,	2 15
Penna. S. S. C. E.,	5 00
Bethany church, Va.,	4 70
F. E. W., Concordia, Kan.,	1 00
M. A. W., " "	1 00
S. B., Altoona,	1 00
J. A. M.,	1 00
Washington city church,	14 20

PAYMENTS

Cash sent direct to J. O. Talley, Chicago,	\$ 42 24
Order No. 71, J. O. Talley, Chicago,	15 00
Order No. 72, Z. H. Copp, Dayton,	5 00
Order No. 73, W. M. Lyon,	15 00
Cash sent direct to W. M. Lyon,	32 55

Amount received,	\$ 132 45
Amount paid,	109 79

Balance in treasury, \$ 22 66

The amounts reported in my July report as from Mt. Pleasant, Ohio, should have been credited to Mt. Pleasant, Ind.

Five dollars sent in in July from the King's Children, of Milledgeville, was overlooked in my July report.

Contributors will greatly oblige me if they will call my attention to any accounts that may not be reported in due time.

JACOB C. CASSEL,
Sec. M. B. of the B. C.

OUR CITY MISSIONS

W. M. LYON

When the great harbinger of the blessed Christ found himself within the gloomy walls of the dungeon of Machaerus, he sent two of his disciples with the inquiry, "Art thou he that should come, or look we for another?" The Master replied, "Go and show John again those things which ye do hear and see; the blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them." When Peter and John had been apprehended by the

council because they had healed the lame man at the Beautiful Gate, it is recorded by the sacred historian that they "beheld the man who was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it." The works of the prophet of Galilee are the credentials of his mission.

What we need then today is the Gospel translated into heart and life—the Gospel in deeds, not words—the Gospel according to facts. And perhaps this is why some one has said that "facts are the fingers of God." Let us see then how this divine hand points with reference to

OUR CITY MISSIONS

What are the facts as they confront us, both from the word of God and the present status of our dear brotherhood? Let us visit the city missions of the first disciples and learn the secret of their success.

PERSONAL CONTACT WITH CHRIST

"He that hath the Son hath life." He took up His life that he might lay it down for our sakes—that He might spend it to save a lost world. He came, "not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many." His mission was to seek and to save that which was lost.

And in the word of God he is represented as the Head of the body—the church, therefore, if Christ be the head and we the body, his mission in this world will be ours, and for this reason he says, "As my Father sent me, even so I send you."

Personal contact with Christ means personal contact with those who need his salvation. And one of the surest evidences that we have "Christ in us as the hope of glory," is that we are found earnestly seeking the salvation of the masses, and in order to do this, we must be true to Apostolic practice as well as the example of Christ himself, preach the glad tidings in the cities.

I am addressing an assembly of Christian believers? Then you need not be told that the Gospel was first preached in all the great cities, beginning at Jerusalem according to divine command. I need not tell you of the flourishing congregations that were soon found as a result of the Gospel message in these great centers of the world's population.

It is necessary, therefore, for us to locate ourselves to see whether we are now fulfilling the divine purpose concerning this most vital truth.

Some one has divided the Christian professors into three classes: "Mission, anti-mission and omission." Christ knows but the one class—the laborer of the vineyard, and not the one that loiters in the market place.

A dear brother in the Gospel, now a missionary in India, once said that he felt that he would be much nearer heaven in India than in America. Heaven is always very near when we are doing God's work in God's way.

Would we find the nearest way to the publishing of the news of salvation to every nation? It is thru the cities. Preach the Gos-

pel in the city and you reach the country much more speedily and effectually than you can reach the city thru the country. The reason for this is apparent to every observing mind, and the history of the Apostolic church confirms the truthfulness of this statement.

A certain writer says, "We are not responsible for conversion, but we are responsible for contact." Let us then, dear brethren, see that we come in personal touch with the wonderful Life-giver and it will then be the most precious boon of our lives to "spend and be spent for others."

PERSONAL LOVE FOR THE LOST

The first disciples were so filled with the life and love of Jesus that they "went everywhere preaching the Word," even tho they had to go as lambs among wolves. The fire of Pentecost must burn on and on, brighter and brighter in their lives.

The flaming fagots of persecution could not silence their cry to the lost and perishing. The floods of tribulation were not deep enough to quench their love to him who agonized in Gethsemane and died on Calvary.

Beloved, this love for the lost can only be communicated to us when we get near enough to him to hear the heart throbs of Golgotha. But I thank God that "Jesus-Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever," and best of all, I praise him that we may have even today the same grand glorious results, if we will but accept the conditions that characterized the disciples of the infant kingdom!

But to be still more practical: Are our city missions a success? If not, why not?

If we have the same Gospel, the same exceedingly great and precious promises, the same Author and Finisher of faith, the same Great Captain of salvation, who has given the marching orders, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature" why should we not, therefore, have the same experience and success that attended the labors of those who first trusted in Christ for he hath said, "Lo, I am with you alway." And since these things are true, why should we not today be planting the Gospel banner in all of our cities and thus be opening the way to send the whole Gospel to the whole world?

After all, there is but one trouble—the same trouble that hindered ancient Israel from entering the land of promise.

"They entered not in because of unbelief." It is unbelief that bars the progress of Christ's cause today.

In the blindness of our unbelief we not only shut the door in the face of our loving Lord, but we close the door to all real success in the great harvest field of this closing age. If we thrust no sickle into the harvest it is because the stubborn hand of unbelief holds it back.

But to the Word and the testimony for proof: "Ask of me and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession." Have we ever really asked God for this won-